

Ambassador Tatiana C. Gfoeller

**Remarks at the Handover ceremony
at the Ministry of Health of the Kyrgyz Republic**

26 November, 2008

Minister Mambetov, honorable guests:

Today I am honored to hand over urgently-needed medical equipment and supplies – namely 4,000 subclavian catheters for children and 40,000 laboratory test systems for HIV screening.

In total, the U.S. Government has provided \$439,000 to purchase these test kits and subclavian catheters for children. In addition to providing this equipment, the funding has supported an assessment of infection prevention and control and training activities for 380 healthcare professionals around the country.

These supplies and training will help Kyrgyzstan improve HIV/AIDS prevention and control among children following the 2007-2008 pediatric outbreaks in health facilities in the Osh oblast.

Last year, at the request of the Ministry of Health, the U.S. Government provided laboratory tests, supplies, and specialists to investigate the outbreak in Osh oblast.

Over the last 15 years, the U.S. Government has worked in close collaboration with the Ministry of Health to improve the health and well-being of Kyrgyz people.

We value our relationship with the Ministry of Health, where we are working side-by-side with our counterparts to combat HIV and other infectious diseases. We look forward to our continued collaboration in the future.